

ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE A-26

NEW YORK TIMES
3 DECEMBER 1982

WASHINGTON TALK

Briefing

Stalled Appointments

Conservative Senators are stepping up their campaign to deny Richard R. Burt confirmation as Assistant Secretary of State for European Affairs, a post for which he was nominated by President Reagan and approved by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee last September.

Senator Barry Goldwater, Republican of Arizona, has reportedly dispatched a letter to the President urging that Mr. Burt not be allowed to occupy the post. Earlier this week, the Senate Republican leadership announced that a group of appointments, expected to include Mr. Burt's, which had been stalled by conservative opposition, would be brought to the floor for a vote before Christmas at the insistence of the State Department.

The most recent charge leveled privately at Mr. Burt in Congressional circles involves a protest by a European government over an alleged disclosure of some piece of sensitive information here.

In addition, during committee debate, Senator Jesse Helms, Republican of North Carolina, accused Mr. Burt of endangering national security by writing about loss of satellite-monitoring equipment in Iran in 1979 when he was a reporter for The New York Times.

Phil Gailey

Warren Weaver Jr.